

W5YI

National Volunteer Examiner Coordinator

REPORT

Up to the minute news from the world of amateur radio, personal computing and emerging electronics. While no guarantee is made, information is from sources we believe to be reliable. May be reproduced providing credit is given to The W5YI Report.

Fred Maia, W5YI, Editor, P.O. Box 565101, Dallas, TX 75356-5101

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March 1, 1991

FCC Looks into Mandarory Ham Radio, Scanner Mods!

Deletion of Public Safety Frequencies Possible

The FCC's investigation of state and local "scanner laws" has taken an unusual -- even disturbing -- turn. The agency is studying whether to pre-empt such laws, which in some states forbid hams from having amateur radios that can pick up public-safety bands in a vehicle.

This is a continuation of a proceeding in which ARRL asked the FCC to make such a pre-emption, for licensed hams only. The *Personal Radio Steering Group* asked for a similar pre-emption for General Mobile Radio Service (GMRS) licensees, and the *Association of North American Radio Clubs* (representing the unlicensed short-wave listener) asked for a general pre-emption for licensees and non-licensees alike.

The ARRL asked more than a year ago for the same type of federal action as PRB-1 to exempt hams from burdensome state laws that forbid citizens from having radios in cars that can pick up police, fire or other government transmissions.

The PRB-1 pre-emption has prevented many cities from ordering hams off the air or towers to be reduced or removed. It basically says that local and state regulation must not preclude and must reasonably accomodate amateur service communications "...and must constitute the minimum practic-

able regulation to accomplish the state or local authority's legitimate purpose."

New Jersey requires police-issued short wave radio permits ...while Kentucky law authorizes officials to immediately seize and destroy radio equipment capable of receiving police signals. A Michigan statute exempts some licensed amateurs -- but strangely not the Novice or Technician class! The objective of these state laws is to make it difficult for criminals to become aware of their detection by police.

The ARRL pointed out that most two meter transceivers receive between 139-174 MHz which includes many public safety frequencies. The League believes that regulation and use of radio apparatus is solely a federal function -- not to be left to the states -- and that neither the *Communications Act* or the *Electronic Communications Privacy Act* (ECPA) prohibit reception by the public of unscrambled police, fire or other governmental radio systems.

The FCC has already received comments that describe harassment by law enforcement officers of amateurs who have such equipment. On February 13, the FCC adopted a new *Notice of Inquiry* (NOI) to seek further information prior to

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frequencies here at issue. Moreover, currently there are over one-half million amateur licensees in the United States. Over half of these are estimated to conduct mobile operations.

"Thus, potentially hundreds of thousands of mobile transceivers used for authorized amateur communication may be found illegal for mobile possession under current state or local laws either in the amateur's home state or when he or she travels to another jurisdiction that enforces scanner laws.

"This inquiry seeks to obtain information such as the technical feasibility of modifying existing equipment to remove the capability to receive police or other public-safety channels, and the marketplace availability, currently, of equipment that does not receive these channels. ...For these reasons, we recommend that this *Notice of Inquiry* be adopted."

(Commissioner James Quello:) "I think the inquiry will allow us to make a fair assessment of whether or not preemption of state and local laws is warranted. Good item."

(Commissioner Sherrie Marshall:) "I would urge manufacturers to participate very actively in this proceeding, to give us hard data on the cost of manufacturing scanners that are incapable of receiving public safety channels. I am generally reluctant to pre-empt state laws, particularly those dealing with public safety. So those who would have us pre-empt anti-scanner laws will have to demonstrate that it would be prohibitively expensive to design and manufacture scanners that comply with those laws."

(Commissioner Ervin Duggan:) "Mr. Chairman, I support this item, it's a good inquiry to make. I just want to point out that the Associated Public Safety Communications Officers, APCO, has suggested that the real answer here lies in encryption technology that would make it possible to protect public safety messages without scanner laws. I would hope that the record that we build will make a thorough investigation of the possibility of using encryption technology, which would make it unnecessary for us to come to the question of pre-

empting state laws that might have a legitimate public safety purpose."

(Chairman Alfred Sikes:) "I would like to add my voice to the others. I am very reluctant to pre-empt state laws in this area, where they are attempting to protect their law enforcement capabilities. But if there is a substantial showing of a real problem, then I certainly would not hesitate to consider it if that seems to be the only way we can go, but that would carry a very great burden as well. If there are no other questions, we will vote the item."

[The Notice of Inquiry is adopted, 5-0.]

[Private Radio Bureau chief **Ralph Haller/N4RH**, at press conference following FCC meeting:]

"In this item there is a concern, brought to our attention by the American Radio Relay League, in which amateur radio equipment that is being manufactured almost all of it offshore, being built for a worldwide market, and because technology now allows reception beyond the amateur bands, they go ahead and build it into the equipment.

"We think primarily due to a desire on the part of local communities to limit the use of scanners, not amateur radio equipment but scanners, in a vehicle for reception of police calls, that amateurs in fact have a legitimate right to use their equipment in a vehicle if they're licensed, and have a legitimate need to monitor frequencies outside the amateur band as they assist police agencies and the federal government in emergencies and such, that they inadvertently have been included in some of these scanner laws.

"So we are asking several questions in the inquiry, and will make a decision. Two of the Commissioners indicated that we have a very high standard before we actually pre-empt, so I would encourage those who are interested in this to make sure that the record is very complete not only in terms of what the amateur community is interested in but also in terms of what state and local governments are interested in ...whether there is really a need for the amateur service to monitor those frequencies, whether it's helpful, or whether

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(one manual covers both 3A and 3B); Advanced (4A) or Extra Class (4B). Cost: \$5.95 each plus \$1.00 shipping/handling. Tel. (toll free) 1-800-669-W5YI. PO Box 565101; Dallas, TX 75356-5101

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in fact the scanner laws are exactly what they were meant to be.

"The primary focus of the inquiry is amateur, but a question is asked specifically about the GMRS because of comments to that effect when the ARRL petition was adopted."

Reaction from experts

The full text of the NOI was not available at press-time. But we asked for some initial reactions from two prominent 'radio activists'.

"It's incumbent upon us to make clear that this [modification] is not only a formidable technical redirection, but it would be impossible to implement from an enforcement standpoint," said **Bob Grove/WA4PYQ** of Brasstown, N.C. - publisher of *Monitoring Times* magazine. "The number of receivers and transceivers presently in use would number in the tens of millions. Obviously, a recall is not even worth considering."

"We always have to be wary of hidden agendas at the FCC," according to Robert Horvitz, radio consultant to the Internews Network and former lobbyist for the *Association of North American Radio Clubs*.

"Since the FCC decided to consider warning labels for scanners but not for cellular phones, and they liberalized Part 15 without setting susceptibility standards for consumer electronics, one has to wonder whether they're really motivated by public interest or business interests. If there is a conflict between state and federal regulations, the better solution is for the states to drop their restrictions on mobile scanning," he said.

Interestingly, monitoring of non-scrambled public-safety communications is expressly allowed by the *Electronic Communications Privacy Act of 1986*. But that permission may gradually become moot if receivers that cover public-safety bands become impossible to buy.

We will have more to report on this issue once we receive the text of the *Notice of Inquiry*. This should be in a couple of weeks.

ARRL ANNOUNCES MAJOR IMPROVEMENTS IN VOLUNTEER EXAM PROGRAM

The American Radio Relay League has advised their volunteer examiners that they may now retain up to \$4.00 of the testing fee (expense reimbursement) as long as it is used "...to further promote exam opportunities in your community and to help offset some of the expenses directly incurred in operating your test session(s)." VE's who do not wish to retain any test fee may continue to forward the \$5.25 test fee directly to the ARRL-VEC.

ARRL issues press release

On February 13th, the League issued the following press release:

"Just in time to welcome newcomers to Amateur Radio via the code-free Technician license, ARRL has announced major improvements in its Volunteer Examiner (VE) program. The changes, most of which take effect immediately, will make examinations more convenient for potential amateurs and present hams wishing to upgrade. The new ARRL program offers greater flexibility and support for Volunteer Examiners who participate through the ARRL Volunteer Examiner Coordinator (ARRL VEC).

"To make it possible for VEs to schedule examination sessions more frequently and to provide more publicity in their local areas, the League will now permit its VE teams to retain up to \$4.00 of the \$5.25 exam fee to offset expenses incurred locally. The services the League has traditionally provided to its VE teams free of charge will continue to be available on that basis.

"VEs may now telephone the ARRL VEC via a toll-free number: 1-800-9-ARRL-VEC (1-800-927-7583). The toll-free service is available in all 50 states, Puerto Rico, and the Virgin Islands. The service can even be accessed from some foreign countries; VE teams overseas should contact the ARRL VEC for information on how to access the number from their locations.

"VEs who have been active in other VEC programs and whose accreditation in another

I am a currently licensed ☐ Advanced, ☐ Extra Class amateur radio operator and wish to become a Volunteer Examiner. I have never had my station or operator license revoked or suspended. I do not own a sig-

WOULD YOU LIKE TO BECOME A VOLUNTEER EXAMINER?
and The W5YI Form. If s Teas End lopy
your Extra Class license, the following signed statement, and a SASE

program is current are now able to apply for "instant accreditation" as ARRL Volunteer Examiners.

"By April 1, VE teams who prefer to use their own computers to generate exams will be able to do so. Teams that prefer a multiple-choice format for Morse code exams will be able to use that format, at their option.

"As a result of the code-free Technician license, the demands on Amateur Radio Volunteer Examiners will be very heavy in the coming months," says ARRL Executive Vice President **David Sumner, K1ZZ**. "We want to give our VEs the best support we can during this critical period. We also want to make sure that anyone seeking an opportunity to take an exam won't have far to look."

Background of the ARRL testing change

We (W5YI-VEC) were contacted by League Vice President, **Jim Haynie, WB5JBP**, during this past December. He told us that the ARRL Board of Directors had asked that he meet with us concerning our VEC testing program. Jim said the ARRL was concerned about their declining testing market share and wanted our suggestions on how this might be improved. I gave him several ideas over lunch.

On February 1 at the **Tropical Hamboree** ham convention in Miami, **Dave Sumner, K1ZZ**, said he and **Larry Price, W4RA**, would like to meet with me. The purpose of the meeting was to inquire about a possible merger of the W5YI and ARRL VEC testing programs. It also became increasingly clear that the ARRL program would be the surviving program. I politely declined their offer.

Basically what the ARRL has now done is to almost completely adopt the W5YI VEC program. All of their new proposals have been standard W5YI-VEC policy since its inception. Some time ago, the ARRL-VEC allowed their VE teams to stock examinations. We have been doing this since the beginning of the VEC System ...in addition to providing our testing teams with test generation software.

Our written test software was developed to make examinations more secure since every test is different. We no longer have to be concerned that a few test versions might become public knowledge. The League has now authorized the use of computer generated examinations ...as well as multiple choice Morse code tests.

We certainly welcome the testing changes that the League has made. It should allow amateur radio examinations to be more readily available ...and more agreeable to the applicant.

HANDICAPPED TELEGRAPHY EXEMPTIONS

There seems to be a difference of opinion as to the paperwork necessary for severely handicapped amateurs to obtain exemptions of the 13/20 words-per-minute telegraphy requirement.

It is no longer necessary to obtain a *Physician's Certification* on the doctor's letterhead. The affidavit may be in a fill-in-the-blank format as shown in our last newsletter. Additional copies of this form are available to any handicapped amateur or examiner from the W5YI-VEC Office. VEs should check the authenticity of the doctor's *original* signature, however. Photocopied or rubber stamp signatures are not permitted. The physician must be a Doctor of Osteopathy (D.O.) or an M.D.

The next version of the FCC Form 610 *Amateur Operator/Station Application* will contain a section for the doctor to sign at which time the separate certification will not be required.

Interestingly, the **American Optometric Association** has filed a *Petition for Reconsideration* with the FCC protesting their definition of "physician". The AOA maintains that optometrists should be able "...to attest that an individual cannot pass the higher speed Morse code telegraphy examinations because of blindness or vision impairment." They believe the Commission has disregarded "...definitions used repeatedly by Congress" and has catered "...to the parochial interests of *American Medical Association* membership." They contend "...it is a clear error of judgement for the Commission to adopt a rule which blatantly discriminates against qualified health care providers."

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JANUARY VE PROGRAM STATISTICS

<u>January</u> <u>No. VEC's</u>	<u>1989</u> <u>*18</u>	<u>1990</u> <u>*18</u>	<u>1991</u> <u>*18</u>
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<u>Testing Sessions</u>	<u>354</u>	<u>462</u>	<u>381</u>
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<u>VEC</u>	<u>1989</u>	<u>1990</u>	<u>1991</u>
W5YI	36.7%	49.6%	42.0%
ARRL	37.9	27.9	35.4
CAVEC	5.7	7.1	6.0
DeVRY	5.1	5.0	4.7
SunV			1.6
Others (13)	14.6	10.4	10.3
<u>Year-to-Date Sessions</u>	<u>354</u>	<u>462</u>	<u>381</u>

<u>Elements Administ.</u>	<u>1989</u>	<u>1990</u>	<u>1991</u>
W5YI	44.4%	33.6%	37.0%
ARRL	34.0	44.3	36.8
CAVEC	6.3	6.9	6.3
SunV			5.4
DeVRY	2.2	4.0	3.7
Others (13)	13.2	11.2	10.8
<u>Year-to-Date Elements</u>	<u>5362</u>	<u>7329</u>	<u>5838</u>

<u>VEC</u>	<u>1989</u>	<u>1990</u>	<u>1991</u>
W5YI	35.1	44.4	37.3
ARRL	42.9%	33.4%	36.5%
CAVEC	4.3	6.5	5.4
SunV			5.3
DeVRY	5.0	4.0	4.6
Others (13)	16.9	11.7	10.9
<u>Year-to-Date Tested</u>	<u>3313</u>	<u>4367</u>	<u>3614</u>

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<u>January</u>	<u>1989</u>	<u>1990</u>	<u>1991</u>
Pass Rate - All	60.1%	60.8%	62.4%
Applicants/Session	9.4	9.5	9.5
Elements/Applicant	1.7	1.7	1.6
Sessions Per VEC	19.7	25.7	21.2

Administrative Errors by VE's/VEC's

<u>January</u>	<u>1989</u>	<u>1990</u>	<u>1991</u>
Defect. Applications	0.5%	0.7%	0.6%
Late Filed Sessions	1.4%	1.1%	2.1%
Defective Reports	1.4%	0.4%	0.0%

Note: There were less testing sessions, applicants and elements administered during January 1991 than in 1990. The reason may be that applicants and VE's were waiting for the rules to change on February 14th when applicants will be permitted to obtain a Technician license without 5 WPM telegraphy proficiency.

[Source: Personal Radio Branch/FCC; Washington, D.C.]

AMATEUR RADIO CALL SIGNS

...issued as of the first of February 1991:

<u>Radio</u> <u>District</u>	<u>Gp. "A"</u> <u>Extra</u>	<u>Gp. "B"</u> <u>Advan.</u>	<u>Gp. "C"</u> <u>Tech/Gen</u>	<u>Gp. "D"</u> <u>Novice</u>
Ø (*)	AAØDK	KFØPH	NØMWW	KBØIHL
1	WO1M	KC1ZG	N1IJV	KA1YFA
2 (*)	AA2DD	KE2ZF	N2LPZ	KB2MDB
3	WJ3L	KD3VN	N3IVB	KA3YKP
4 (*)	AC4CL	KN4VS	(***)	KC4VVN
5 (*)	AA5WV	KI5NF	N5RZI	KB5OUF
6 (*)	AB6AP	KK6VV	(***)	KC6RJT
7 (*)	AA7HH	KG7MK	N7QEI	KB7MPU
8 (*)	AA8DC	KF8LE	N8NIS	KB8LTE
9	WY9R	KF9BG	N9KMA	KB9GFA
N.Mariana Is.	AHØJ	AHØAG	KHØAM	WHØAAP
Guam	KH2O	AH2CI	KH2EW	WH2AMU
Johnston Is.	AH3D	AH3AD	KH3AE	WH3AAG
Midway Is.		AH4AA	KH4AE	WH4AAH
Hawaii	(**)	AH6KW	NH6YH	WH6CJY
Kure Is.			KH7AA	
Amer. Samoa	AH8D	AH8AE	KH8AI	WH8ABA
Wake W.Peale	AH9A	AH9AD	KH9AE	WH9AAH
Alaska	(**)	AL7MR	NL7VY	WL7CAJ
Virgin Is.	NP2J	KP2BV	NP2EC	WP2AHF
Puerto Rico	(**)	KP4RM	(***)	WP4JUC

CALL SIGN WATCH: *=All 2-by-1 "W" prefixed call signs have been assigned in the 2nd, 4th, 5th, 6th, 7th, 8th and "Ø" radio districts where 2-by-2 format call signs from the AA-AK block are now being assigned to Extra Class amateurs. (Other than DX, only the 1st, 3rd and 9th district have 2-by-1's left!)

**=All Group A (2-by-1) format call signs have been assigned in Hawaii, Alaska and Puerto Rico. Group "B" (2-by-2) format call signs are assigned to Extra Class when Group "A" are depleted.

***=Group "C" (1-by-3) call signs have now run out in the 4th, 6th and now Puerto Rico call districts. According to the rules (adopted by the Commission Feb. 8, 1978, Docket No. 21135), Technician/General class amateurs are next assigned Group "D" (2-by-3 format) call signs when all Group "C" have been assigned. Upgrading Novices holding a 2-by-3 format call sign in the 4th, 6th and Puerto Rico call areas will no longer be able to request a Group "C" call and will be automatically assigned another more recent 2-by-3 format call sign if they do! The FCC has said they will not be going back and reassigning unused "K" and "W" 1-by-3 format call signs.

[Source: FCC, Gettysburg, Pennsylvania]

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- The staff of the Federal Trade Commission wants **frequency allocations for digital radio sold at auction** instead of being allocated by the FCC. The FTC believes it would result in few administrative abuses and more benefits for the consumer. The sound quality of digital radio is comparable to that of compact discs - far superior to that of AM and FM radio and records or tape recordings.

- **Ham Radio Provides Link to Mid-east.** The Associated Press carried a story about how ARRL's **Luck Hurdler/KY1T** dispatched a packet message to Tel Aviv, Israel to determine the fate of a woman's family. The return response was "...frightened but otherwise OK."

The article also tells how hams, operating on MARS frequencies, are relaying messages from the Persian Gulf. Operators have concentrated on receiving traffic rather than sending messages to the area. One hundred "How are you?" messages from the U.S. aren't as important as one "I'm fine."

- The *Washington Post* carried an article on how communications lawyer, **Jim Weitzman/K3JW**, got a ham radio message through to the 84 year old mother of his former law professor. All Tel Aviv phone lines were hopeless jammed, but Jim was able to obtain a "...shaken, but fine" return response. "Weitzman, 43, has been busy since the first scud attack on Jan. 18, using his ham radio to link residents with relatives in Israel. ...When normal communication channels are down, what else do you have? [Ham radio] is the communications link of the last resort."

- IARU Region II Secretary, **Tom Atkins, VE3CDM**, issued a press release regarding an IARU meeting held in Miami on February 1. In attendance were representatives IARU member societies in Mexico,

Bermuda, Jamaica, Cayman Islands, Canada and the United States. The meeting was chaired by **Guillermo Nunez, XE1NJ** and **Steve Dunkerley, VP9IM**. A very full agenda included topics from the last Region II conference, WARC-92 issues, finances, IARU monitoring project, emergency communications, a beacon project and other ITU and CITEL matters.

- The FCC recently rejected a petition by the ARRL to revise the rules on responsibility for content of automatically controlled third party traffic. The League's proposal would have held the originating amateur station solely responsible. Texas amateurs, **Joe Jarrett, K5FOG**, and **Tom Blackwell, N5GAR** have submitted a new petition that takes a slightly different approach.

They ask that \$97,205(g) be amended to hold the originator of a prohibited transmission primarily responsible for the retransmission, with the licensee of the repeater having secondary responsibility.

"The new paragraph 'g' does not eliminate a trustee's responsibility for insuring the proper operation of his repeater. It is intended to protect him from blame for those instantaneous operations over which he has no effective control." (*Petition for Rulemaking filed February 8th.*)

- **FCC engineers and U.S. Marshalls swooped down** on Rohan Monrigh of Wyandanch, New York, and seized his illegal CB equipment which included a 2,000 watt linear amplifier. The raid was in response to a petition signed by 106 area residents who said Monrigh's transmissions could be heard on their television and telephone equipment. He was issued a \$1,000 fine for unauthorized CB operation.

- **Are saboteurs legally eavesdropping on our computers?** Industrial and international spies skilled in RF technology can wire(less) tap micro-

computer data a few hundred feet away by simply 'reading' the electromagnetic waves created by small changes in current and voltage.

Under a *National Security Agency* program code-named "Tempest" (an acronym for Transient ElectroMagnetic Pulse Emanation Standard) the C.I.A. has been able to eradicate electromagnetic computer noise using a *Faraday Cage*, a shield that effectively grounds all stray signals.

It is a violation to intercept cellular telephone conversations and certain satellite TV signals, but apparently perfectly legal to receive stray computer radiation. While they are not talking about it, some large computer companies are offering Tempest-rated PC's.

- Flying repeaters aboard C-130's are being used in the Persian Gulf to extend UHF (line of sight) communications.

- **Computer Junk Mail!** You are probably not aware of it, but every time you access a **PRODIGY information service**, a record is made. PRODIGY is now offering "targeted" electronic mail to advertisers who want to promote their products to certain demographics and user interests. PRODIGY, a Sears/IBM joint venture, has grown from 50,000 to 800,000 members in two years! **PRODIGY Direct Mail** appears in the subscribers mailbox which must be read by the subscriber.

- We recently reported that Thai sources reported they had entered into a **reciprocal amateur radio licensing agreement** with the United States. The FCC has now confirmed that report. The recent civil rebellion in Thailand, however, casts some doubt on the future of ham radio in that nation.

- A recent study by the FCC shows **substantial increases in the number of amateur radio licensees**

over the past 25 years ...except to the General Class. There are now less General Class licensees than there were in 1965! Biggest expansion is to the beginning (Novice and Technician) ham levels. As of December 31, 1990, the amateur radio licensee mix is as follows:

Novice:	18.8%
Technician:	25.5%
General:	23.9%
Advanced:	21.1%
Extra Class:	10.8%

● Hoping to capitalize on the infusion of new hams, 73 magazine publisher, **Wayne Green, W2NSD/1**, plans to debut a new publication called **RADIO FUN**. It will be distributed free to 20,000 newly licensed Novices and Techs. To get the publication going, Green is offering a special one-year 12-time advertising contract for around \$750 per 8" X 10" black & white page.

● **"Lending Houston a Helping Ham"** is what the *Houston Amateur Radio Helpline* is all about. All it takes is an interested person, a touch-tone phone and a call to 713-488-4HAM to find out the latest information about amateur clubs, classes, tests, rules and ham radio in general.

"We wanted to find a way to get the word out about amateur radio - how much fun it is, how easy it is to get involved with and how to do it," according to W5YI-VE **Jim Heil, KB5AWM**, who spearheaded formation of the Helpline.

To do this, the *Clear Lake Amateur Radio Club* is using a computerized telephone answering system that provides callers with a menu of choices and access to information by simply punching in numbers from their touch-tone phone.

According to Heil, even the FCC Houston field office has greeted this project with enthusiasm and gives out the Helpline number to people looking for amateur radio information.

● The problems of 20 meters appear far from over! **Herb Schoenbohm/KV4FZ** and the BARF group (the *Better Amateur Radio Federation*) seem to be continuing their campaign against the public service networks who handle illegal international third party traffic. While the malicious interference has subsided somewhat, the jamming still continues. Many net members are receiving harassing phone calls. KV4FZ threatens to start his own phone patch network if the FCC refuses to make indiscriminate phone patching illegal.

The telephone fraud case against Shoenbohm is still active but information is very hard to come by. Both U.S. Attorney Terry M. Halpern (U.S. Virgin Islands) and Laurence S. McWhorter, of the U.S. Dept. of Justice (Washington, D.C.) have refused comment on the Schoenbohm case since the federal investigation against him is ongoing.

KV4FZ alleges that a compact between various "amateur hate elements" has engaged in a conspiracy to defame, malign and injure him and his family. He says individuals have made thousands of dollars of false orders in his name, ...including subscriptions to sexually oriented magazines, fictitious CODs, placed companionship orders in Biker magazines, made harassing telephone calls to his home and attempted to plant illegal evidence.

● **Protecting Electronic Privacy.** Jim Warren, writing in the January 21st issue of *MicroTimes* says there is a simple **solution to the increasing and justified concern over snooping and surveillance** of electronic mail and private teleconferences. Encrypt everything... Encryption is somewhat the digital counterpart of an envelope. Unencrypted E-Mail is like a post card. It can provide entertainment for idle sysops and nosey administrators along its entire transmission path, just as post cards

have done for generations of postal workers. 'Encrypt all' can assure protection, even using the federally adopted DES (*Data Encryption Standard*) - intentionally brain-damaged by the National Security Agency to assure that documents would be "crackable." The NSA allegedly wanted to be able to read anyone's E-Mail. Given hours or a few days on a super-computer, the NSA can crack documents encrypted with the DES' 56-bit keys; not possible if they had permitted 64 bit keys. Of course, so can any corporation or government with super-computer access."

● A radio amateur has become the **Minister of Posts and Telecommunications** in Japan! **Katsutsugu Sekiya, JA5FHB**, a member of the Japanese House of Representatives has been sworn in as the new Minister of Posts of Telecommunications.

JARL president **Shozo Hara, JA1AN** reported on the events of 1990. The long-awaited Fuji-2 amateur satellite was successfully launched, new 18 and 24 MHz bands were released to Japanese amateurs, Japanese amateur operators were divided into four categories ranging from first to fourth class, and friendly communications with the U.S.S.R. was intensified through the second participation in the ARDF (Amateur Radio Direction Finding) National Competition held in October.

JA1AN said "This year will be a very important one for all radio amateurs around the world, inasmuch as they must make their final preparations for the forthcoming WARC-92 which is near at hand."

● Amateurs who need **verification of their "Grandfathered" Technician Class status** may get this from the Commission by writing: FCC, Consumer Assistance, 1270 Fairfield Road, Gettysburg, PA 17325-7245. "Grandfathered Technicians" have

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passed the old 50 question Tech exam before March 21, 1987 and receive examination credit for Elements 1A (5 WPM code), 2 (Novice written), 3A and 3B (Technician and General written exams.)

The verification request must be made by writing the FCC. Telephone calls are not accepted for this purpose. It is the responsibility of the applicant to prove which test elements they have credit for. This is usually accomplished by showing a CSCE, *Certificate of Successful Completion of Examination*, issued by the VE team.

Technicians examined between March 21, 1987 and February 13, 1991, get credit for Elements 1A, 2 and 3A. Codeless Technician licensees examined after Feb. 14 get credited only with Elements 2 and 3A. Tech Plus applicants get credit for 1A, 2, and 3A.

- The VEC's are in the process of **establishing a data base of applicants who have passed the Tech Plus** requirements after Feb. 14th.

There are three types of Tech Plus; (1.) applicants that pass 5 wpm, 2 and 3A at one sitting, (2.) Novices who later pass Element 3A and (3.) Codeless Technicians who later pass the 5 wpm code requirement.

All VECs are forwarding their lists of Tech Plus applicants to: **Tech Plus Database, 1215 Dale Drive SE, Huntsville, AL 35801**, so that a single database may be developed for FCC use. The database will be forwarded periodically to the Commission so that they will be able to identify holders of the Tech Plus class for enforcement purposes.

- AMSAT Board of Directors have unanimously agreed to **terminate their Phase IV concept**. This is the orbiting of a geosynchronous satellite dedicated solely to amateur radio applications. AMSAT feels that it has become increasingly apparent

that the Phase IV project simply didn't have the required multi-million dollar level of financial support needed within the Amateur community.

AMSAT will now turn their attention to another interesting and worthwhile project to be known as Phase IIID. Its mission objectives are yet to be fully defined. In general terms, however, this mission is planned to be a super enhanced Amateur satellite with worldwide communications capability.

- Even though under attack by Iraq, **Israeli amateurs are still permitted to transmit on all amateur bands** and are also encouraged to handle emergency traffic, including phone patches to worried families abroad. Local amateurs are also on the alert in all major towns, aiding police, Red Magen David (Red Cross) and Civil Air Defense. All main repeaters, during the time an alarm is on, are kept clear for emergency traffic. In the Tel Aviv area, the club station 4Z4VY is manned around the clock and functions as the coordinator, between these organizations.

- **Canadian amateurs are prohibited** from communicating with amateur stations in Saudi Arabia and Iraq. The United States does not have any countries on the banned list.

- The **Canadian Amateur Radio Federation** reports that their Dept. of Communications is planning to reallocate the 220-225 MHz amateur band to commercial use.

- The FCC has issued new Fact Sheet No. 201 giving **updated information about the Amateur Service**. The primary change concerns the recent availability of two entry level operator classes. The new portions:

"Although a person may initially qualify for any of the five grades of operator class, either the Technician or the Novice operator class is the

ideal way to become involved quickly in amateur radio. After gaining more skill and knowledge, the licensee can advance to a higher class of operator license.

"The requirement for the Technician Class license is a 55 question written examination (Elements 2 and 3A). There is no telegraphy requirement. Its privileges include all emission types in the 6 meter and shorter wavelength bands. The station is assigned a Group C call sign, where available.

"Additionally, a Technician Class operator license plus a *Certificate of Successful Completion of Examination* for passing a telegraphy examination authorizes privileges in the 10, 15, 40 and 80 meter bands.

"The Novice Class is for persons who do not have the knowledge to pass the 25 question Element 3A, but who can pass the 30 question Element 2 and a telegraphy examination. The privileges include all emission types in a segment of the 23 centimeter band and a segment of the 1.25 meter band. Also included are teleprinting and voice emission privileges in the 10 meter band and telegraphy privileges in the 10, 15, 40 and 80 meter bands. The station is assigned a Group D call sign."

- **Amateurs in the Soviet Union launched RM-1**, the latest Soviet amateur radio satellite, on February 5th. A joint effort of AMSAT-USSR and AMSAT-DL, the satellite has been designated as OSCAR-21.

- The FCC has issued new rules to **regulate alternate operator services (AOS)**. These are private companies that provide telephone service to pay phone operators, hospitals, hotels, etc. The rules are a result of the *Telephone Operator Consumer Improvement Act of 1990* introduced by Rep. Jim Cooper (D-Tenn). He also authored the *Amateur Radio Spectrum Protection Act of 1991*.

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THE IARU REGION 2 NEWS ...is published quarterly by **Fred Laun/K3ZO** of Temple Hills, Maryland. Highlights from the most recent issue:

Pedro Siedmann, YV5BPG, maintains some of the most popular amateur radio bands in our hemisphere will be in jeopardy at the upcoming **ITU World Administrative Radio Conference** to be held between February 4 and March 5, 1992, in Spain. Siedmann, the IARU Region II WARC-92 Coordinator, says "We must understand that using our bands is not a privilege secured for perpetuity. We must earn it every single day by virtue of adequate behavior on our bands..."

The **agenda for WARC-92** as prepared by the **ITU Administrative Council** presents the most serious threat to the 7 MHz HF amateur band, with potential danger to 3.5, 10.1 and 14 MHz bands ...and lesser perils at 18 and 21 MHz. In VHF/UHF/SF allocations, there is some concern about the amateur radio service assignments above 20 GHz, the 144 MHz and 420 MHz bands, frequencies in the vicinity of 441 MHz, frequencies between 1 and 3 GHz ...and at 10 GHz and 24 GHz.

The 7.1-7.3 MHz segment is exclusive amateur only in Region II. The 7.0-7.1 MHz segment is a worldwide amateur exclusive allocation in which many broadcasting stations operate illegally. The **International Broadcasting Service** has petitioned the ITU seeking expansion of their bands and "...we are forced to take defensive action in order to prove to the majority of the Delegates at the upcoming WARC that amateur radio needs to retain its 40 meter privileges."

"...any one amateur cannot by himself save our band. But a single amateur can indeed seriously hurt the IARU efforts. The last thing we need ...is [for] some amateur, for whatever sane or insane reasons, [to] begin making illegal broadcast-like transmissions on any HF band, ...or use foul language repeatedly, or otherwise abuse amateur radio privileges."

World Bank Amateur Radio Club founder (and its first president), **Richard Skolnik/KB4LCS** tells how the group formed the organization. Readers can find 4U1WB between 1100-1200 UTC and 1600-

1700 UTC on 20, 15 or 10 meters "...in the pileup." This is just before work at the bank ...or during lunchtime. 4U1WB played a role in the Mexican and El Salvador earthquakes and Hurricane Hugo. They have 22 or 23 licensed amateurs from the Philippines, Holland, Germany, UK, India, Switzerland, Chile, Ecuador, Peru, the U.S. and Canada in the club. The World Bank is headquartered in Washington, D.C. Their 4U1WB call sign was specially issued by the ITU.

The **IARU Region II Net** takes place at 2330 UTC on Monday at 14.265 MHz. "If no conditions, then: 2345 UTC, 21.265 MHz."

Tom Atkins, VE3CDM, IARU Region II Secretary, says that less than half the Administrations in Region II have signed the **Inter-American Amateur Radio Service Convention**. This multilateral agreement provides for the use of a single amateur license within our hemisphere. He also reminds everyone to complete QSL cards using Year/Month/Day (i.e. 91/3/1) ...and also UTC time.

"To meet the expenses of WARC-92, Region II has established a **Special WARC-92 Fund** and we are looking for contributions to the Fund. Individual donations of US\$50, and club donations of \$100, will be acknowledged with a special Region II lapel pin." Donations to: **Steve Dunkerley, VP9IM**, P.O. Box HM-2215, Hamilton, HM JX, Bermuda.

IARU Region II is conducting a **WARC-92 Logo Design Contest** which would promote the role played by the IARU in the protection of amateur radio. Suggestions to: **VE3CDM**, 55 Havenbrook Blvd., Willowdale, Ontario M2J 1A7, Canada)

The predominantly **ITU Region I United Kingdom** will represent the following Region II areas at WARC-92: Anguila, Bermuda, British Virgin Islands, Cayman Islands, Montserrat, Turks & Caicos, Falkland Islands and Dependencies and possibly Tristan da Cunha.

Pedro Allina, HK3JJH reported many QSL cards destined for Colombian (HK) amateur stations are never delivered because their national QSL bureau only handles cards for LRCA (*Liga Colombiana de Radioaficionados*) members.